🐜 THE 30-MINUTE ANT NEST HUNTING MAP

Alex Carter's Practical Checklist – Pest Free Gone

🧪 What you need to prepare (takes 2 minutes):

- ☐ **"Trojan Horse" gel bait** – Recipe: 1 teaspoon borax + 3 teaspoons sugar + 2 teaspoons hot water, stir until dissolved, let cool to a honey-like consistency.
- ☐ **Food coloring** (blue or red) – 2–3 drops mixed into the bait so you can see the ants' trail.
- ☐ **Paper tape** and a **small brush** (or cotton swab) to place bait without smearing.
- ☐ **Phone** – for taking photos, recording video, and using the flashlight.
- ☐ **Highlighter pen** or small marker flags to tag nest locations.
- ☐ **Disposable gloves** – borax is a chemical; don't let it touch your hands and then rub your eyes (I did that once and learned the hard way).

🔎 PHASE 1: Find the "Ant Highway" (10 minutes)

Don't rush to place bait. You need to read the map first.

- ☐ Pick the right time: early morning (6–8 am) or cool afternoon (4–6 pm). These are peak ant traffic hours.
- ☐ Go out to the yard, stand still for 1 minute, and observe the ground, tree trunks, paved **trail of ants following** – they move in a line, not

paths. You're looking for a **each other** randomly.

- [ ] If you see just a few scattered ants, ignore them. Look for at least 5–10 ants moving in the same direction within a minute.

- [ ] Determine direction: Where are the ants **heading to**? Where are they **coming from**? Mark arrows with a twig or draw on your phone photo.

- [ ] If no clear trail is visible, “activate” by placing a tiny drop of sugar water on the ground near a suspicious tree base. Wait 5 minutes – ants will appear.

🗺️ PHASE 2: Mark and Trace (15 minutes)

This is where you turn ants into your navigators.

- [ ] Apply 1–2 drops of colored gel bait onto a flat, dust-free spot right on the ant trail.

- [ ] Step back, sit down, and watch. Ants will suck the colored bait into their crops and **carry it back to the nest**. You'll spot ants with swollen, blue/red-tinted abdomens crawling opposite to the foraging direction.

- [ ] Gently follow the reverse direction of those “color-bellied” ants. They will lead you to the nest.

- [ ] Use your phone’s flashlight to inspect along the path if it's dim. Be careful not to step on the ant trail.

- [ ] Note: Ant nests usually hide in **dry, sheltered spots** – under loose paving stones, concrete cracks, beneath old plant pots, rotten stumps, or right next to the house foundation where the soil stays warm.

🎯 PHASE 3: Confirm & Mark the Headquarters (3 minutes)

The "gotcha" moment.

- [ ] When you see a spot with dense ant traffic going in and out continuously – that's the nest. Sign: fine, coffee-ground-like soil piled around the entrance.
- [ ] Take a photo of the nest location. Mark it with a highlighter (draw a circle on a rock/tile) or place a marker flag.
- [ ] **Do NOT dig, spray, or pour boiling water into the nest.** That only panics them into splitting the colony; a month later you'll have two nests instead of one.

> ⚡ ***After finding the nest: The finishing blow (do it immediately)***

- [ ] Place a **gel bait station** right at the nest entrance: use a plastic bottle cap, put cotton soaked with gel bait inside, and place it upside down leaving a gap for ants to enter.
- [ ] If the nest is under a paved path and you can't reach it, set the bait station on the ant trail about 30–50 cm (12–20 inches) from the nest.
- [ ] **Protect pets & children:** Cover the bait station with a plastic bottle cut in half (like a dome), leaving a small opening at the bottom for ants.
- [ ] Note the bait placement date in your phone. Check after 48 hours: ant numbers should drop drastically. Within 5–7 days, the colony collapses.

Alex's safety tips:

• Always wash hands with soap after touching gel bait.

• If you suspect a pet has licked it, contact a veterinarian immediately.

• Borax is an insecticide, not table sugar – keep out of reach of children.

📘 Already finished?

If you want me to show you how to handle **every ant species** – from fire ants, carpenter ants to Argentine ants – check out my ebook **“Total Ant Control”**. Inside you’ll find step-by-step diagrams for each species, adjusted bait recipes, and mistakes to avoid.

Link in video description – $7.99.

🐜 Happy nest hunting! **– Alex Carter, Pest Free Gone** 🌹